

To: <director@dfw.wa.gov>
Date: Sat, Sep 8, 2001 12:03 PM
Subject: Next Generation of "Gillnets"

Dear Sir,

To you and all your staff; a big thank you and congratulations for the work that Geraldine Vanderhagen and her group of commercial fishers have done this year on "The Tangle Net - The next generation!" This would also include the people at the counting stations at the dam sites, who, without their due diligence to gather the tag data, would not have given us the irrefutable evidence that we so desperately needed to improve the fishery's performance and public acceptance thereof.

As you are well aware, up here in BC,(Canada), we are under the same scrutiny, and with the same issues. Without the support and work that your people have done, I'm not sure just how far we would have gotten with our limited access to that kind and quality/certainty of data. We have been doing the same work with the "Tangle Net", here on the Skeena River, albeit on Sockeye, and very exiting observer covered results to date, but we do not have access to that so very important, long term survival/mortality data that your people have at the counting stations.

Again, thank you and all your people so much, it has meant a great deal to us up here! Please thank Geraldine and her very dedicated Fishers who's work has also helped to support us; hands linked across the border - Washington State Fish and Wildlife and our Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, so very important! Without this collaborative effort, I had the feeling that we were doomed forever to "anecdotal" evidence.

Sincerely,

Fred and Linda Hawkshaw